Procure-to-Pay Capability Summary

SUBJECT: Procurement Data Standard

Congress and Department of Defense (DoD) officials rely upon accurate and system accessible data. Based on this need, the Undersecretary for Acquisition & Sustainment (A&S), formerly Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L), tasked the Director, Defense Pricing & Contracting (DPC), formerly Defense Pricing & Acquisition Policy (DPAP), to create the Procurement Data Standard (PDS), which is a system-agnostic data standard that supports the creation, translation, processing, and sharing of procurement actions often generated by proprietary data models in other systems. This data standard supports FAR-based awards, orders, and modifications, as well as the creation of solicitations.

POLICY: Section 862 of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required DoD to establish enterprise-level standards for contract data. DPC developed direction in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Procedures, Guidance, and Instruction (PGI) 204.201 requiring DoD procurement organizations to distribute awards electronically to the Electronic Document Access repository and accounting systems in PDS format. The Comptroller updated the DoD Financial Management Regulation Volume 3, Chapter 8 to require that accounting systems receive PDS data, thus completing a critical "P2P" data exchange between procurement and FM systems.

DATA STANDARDS: The PDS is an XML-based, non-proprietary data standard available at https://www.acq.osd.mil/DPC/pdi/eb/procurement_data_standard.html. DPC developed the first version of the PDS in Fiscal Year 2008. Subsequent versions have integrated additional capabilities, such as the ability to create modifications and issue telecommunications contracts, construction contracts, and solicitations. This data standard documents the entire contract as discrete data elements, against which data validations and business rules interrogations are performed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE: DPC has partnered with Defense Logistics Agency to use their Global EXchange (GEX) service to perform business rules validations on each contract's data quality and route PDS data to receiving systems. GEX supports pre-award and at-time-of-award validation. The validations are executed as both failures and warnings. The results of these business rules validations are available to users who may then systematically identify and correct common contract data quality issues. As of February 2019, 13 of the Department's 18 contract writing systems have deployed PDS, and all forthcoming "next generation" contract writing systems must build to this standard.

IMPACT: The PDS improves visibility of contract-related data and has enabled system owners to improve data integrity within each of the deployed systems. The data has enabled senior DoD leadership to make better informed business decisions. Use of this standard enables improved reconciliation of contracts, the reduction of manual intervention when performing contract administration processes, and the ability to generate more accurate and comprehensive business intelligence on contract data.

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